

Effect of Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center's  
Acquisition of South Coast Medical Center on the  
Availability or Accessibility of Healthcare Services

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# **ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AVAILABILITY OR ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES**

## ***Reproductive Health Services***

Mission Hospital is a Catholic-sponsored hospital. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ethical and Religious Directives ("Directives") for Catholic Health Care Services govern the delivery of care at Catholic health care institutions. The Directives will apply to SCMC. The Directives prohibit certain procedures associated with reproductive health (e.g. tubal ligations, in-vitro fertilization, sterilizations, abortions). Approximately 95% of these procedures that are performed in a hospital are linked to an obstetrics program. For example, the vast majority of tubal ligations are performed directly after a birth. Since the closure of SCMC's obstetrics program in May 2008, there have been very few tubal ligations and other reproductive health procedures performed at SCMC (11 in 2009 YTD according to SCMC). In addition, tubal ligations and other reproductive health services are currently provided at many other hospitals, clinics, and ambulatory surgery centers in the area. Therefore, the sale of SCMC to Mission Hospital is not expected to significantly impact the availability or accessibility of these services.